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Competition: Page Two

## INSIDE: FOUR-PAGE HOLIDAY SUPPLEMENT



Pages 13-16



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## School turns fortunes around

A 'FAILING' school has turned itself around in just two years according to inspectors.

The Leys Primary School, in Leys Avenue, Dagenham, which was found to have serious weaknesses in 2012, has now been rated as good following a recent Ofsted inspection.

The inspectors said the school had improved 'considerably' since their last visit and that senior leaders were 'unwavering and highly successful' in their drive for improvement.

Head teacher Grant Krog said: "We have been under intense scrutiny for the last two years but the school motto - resilience to achieve, aspiration to succeed - has been demonstrated by leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, administration staff, pupils, parents and governors alike. This great outcome is testament to a true team effort."



**WELL DONE:** Headteacher Grant Krog and deputy head Richard Gough along with the school council

Picture by Martin Dalton

The school was identified as failing by Ofsted in March 2012. An improvement plan was agreed and a new team put in place in a bid to turn the school around.

The measures included drafting in executive head teacher, Leigh Culyer, from the nearby Beam

Primary School, the recruitment of new teachers and a training programme for school governors.

Pupils are now achieving almost double what they were in 2011 for reading, writing and maths setting them above the national average of 76 per cent at 79 per cent.

The number of pupils achieving level five in maths has rocketed from 20 per cent in 2011 to 50 per cent. The number of pupils getting level five for writing has gone from zero to 26 per cent and for reading rising from 34 per cent in 2011 to 47 per cent in 2013.

# 'COME CLEAN' OVER SCHOOL PLAN

**By Paul Peterson**

[barking@yellowad.co.uk](mailto:barking@yellowad.co.uk)

A ROW has erupted over plans to transform the Dorothy Barley Junior School into an academy.

The leader of Barking and Dagenham Council, Liam Smith, is calling for the Department for Education to 'come clean' and publish the results of a public consultation on the proposed

changes.

It comes after a council consultation revealed that more than 70 parents do not want Dorothy Barley to be turned into an academy and

■ **Turn to page 3**

Becontree, Becontree Heath, Chadwell Heath, Creekmouth, Rush Green, Parsloes Park, Upney

## NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

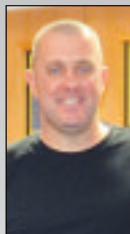
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WALTHAM FOREST COLLEGE



## INSIDE this week



West Ham  
football  
legend visits  
hospice

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The office is open between 8.30am-  
5.30pm from Monday to Thursday and  
until 5pm on Friday.

**Editor:** Mick Ferris

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**Distribution:** Contact Caroline Wilson on

020 8364 4040 or e-mail

distribution.enfield@nlhnews.co.uk

**Leaflet sales:** 01268 503386

For all reader travel bookings and

enquiries call 0845 226 7747

## Tindle Newspapers Ltd

Printed by Trinity Mirror plc, St Albans Road,  
Watford, Herts. The Yellow Advertiser Ltd is  
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## Competition

# A SINGLE STEP TO A NEW YOU IN 2014

WE'VE all heard the saying "A new year = a new you" and while many of us start each year with good intentions, it is easy to slip back into old habits.

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Alternatively text YABULK (space) followed by A, B or C, and your name, full address and email to 63333. Calls cost 51p from a BT landline.

Calls from other networks may vary and from mobiles will cost considerably more. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rates. If you do not wish to receive details on any other products or services, please text EXIT at the end of your message.

Lines close on Thursday, January

16, 2014. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged.

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## Artist to showcase work

A DAGENHAM artist will be showcasing his work at the end of Southend Pier later this week.

Norman Hayeem, from Bennetts Castle Lane, is one of several artists who will exhibit their work at the Royal Pavilion on Southend Pier as part of the Jewish Community Art-on-the-Pier event.

Norman, who was born in Mile End and grew up on a council estate in Tower Hamlets, has worked with a range of art forms over the years from drawing, sculpture, photography and conceptual art.

He said: "My late grandfather got me started with my artwork by helping me to draw and learn perspective. My parents also encouraged me with my art and not to mention my endearing wife.



ART: Norman Hayeem with his artwork on display at the end of Southend Pier

Picture by Mark Cleveland

"I've used many materials to develop and create my artwork including wood, metal, paper, oil pastel and then photography but I now find my art moving toward

my Jewish cultural heritage."

The exhibition runs from 9.15am to 4pm between Thursday, January 9 and Saturday, January 19.

## Row over school academy plan

● continued from front page want the school to be kept under the control of the local authority.

Cllr Smith said: "The views of parents and children are important and should be considered before any changes are made as they are the ones who will be affected. The council, parents and teachers should be given a say and other options should be considered rather than have it imposed on them.

"The secretary of state must listen to the voice of parents and must take our survey into account."

The public consultation on changing the school into a spon-

sored academy was conducted by an interim executive board, which was appointed by secretary of state for education Michael Gove MP.

But the National Union of Teachers (NUT) claims the school is being forced to become an academy.

Dominic Byrne, secretary of the Barking and Dagenham branch, said: "The NUT is appalled by the coercion employed against the Dorothy Barley Junior School in the Government's attempts to force it to become an academy against the wishes of parents, governors, staff and the local authority."

A government spokesman said Mr Gove would 'carefully consider' all consultations responses including the council's questionnaire before making a final decision on the school's future.

She said: "The Dorothy Barley Junior School has had serious problems for some time and Ofsted judged the school to be inadequate and requiring special measures for the third time in eight years.

"The results for 11-year-olds at the school are consistently below the national average. We cannot stand by when a school continues to provide an unacceptable standard of education."

## ► speedread

### Have your say on parks

RESIDENTS are being asked to help shape three of the biggest parks in the borough.

The council is appealing for local people to take part in a public consultation about the future of Central Park and the adjacent Eastbrookend Country Park and Parsloes Park.

The consultation, which runs until Friday, January 18, can be found by logging onto the council's website at

www.lbdd.gov.uk and scrolling down to the consultation portal.

### Rent licence

TENANTS and landlords are being asked to comment on plans to bring in a new licensing scheme.

Barking and Dagenham Council is running a public consultation on the proposals, which would mean landlords across the borough will have to buy a licence to private rent out their properties.

To take part in the survey, visit www.lbdd.gov.uk and click on Landlord Licensing Survey.

### £1 million plan

PLANS to spend £1million on facilities to help older people stay more active have been approved.

The council will carry out works at Park Active Age Centre in Rectory Road, Dagenham, Valence Library, in Becontree Avenue, Dagenham, and Robert Jeyes Library in High Road, Chadwell Heath.

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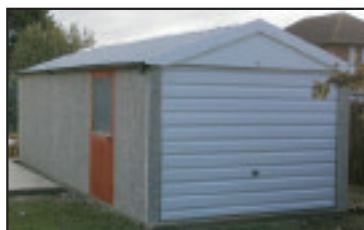
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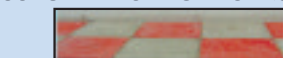
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# Muggers punch youth in face at rail station

## Attackers search pockets of teenager before stealing his iPod

TWO men attacked a 17-year-old youth while he was waiting for a train at Romford station.

The victim, from Ilford, was on his way home from work when he was grabbed round the neck and punched in the face by the men at around 7.20pm.

The attackers then searched through the teenager's pockets and took his iPod before making off from the railway station.

The attack took place on November 25 last year but now detectives have released CCTV images of suspects in the case.

DC Jon Howlett, of British Transport Police (BTP) said: "This must have been an intimidating experience for the victim. The CCTV images are clear and I would ask anyone who witnessed the incident or who recognises the two men to come forward."

Anyone with information is asked to call BTP on 0800 40 50 40 quoting background reference LNA/B6 of 27/12/2013 or call Crimestoppers anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

WANTED: Do you know these men?



### Victim is seriously injured

A GOOD Samaritan was left needing a steel plate in his jaw after he was assaulted when he tried to break up an argument.

The 29-year-old was walking through an alleyway known as Great Eastern Path, leading between the tube station and Roding Gardens in Loughton when he heard a man and woman arguing. He went over to see if everything was alright, but was punched in the face by the man.

The victim, who lives locally, suffered a fractured jaw and was taken to hospital for his injuries. He has had to have a steel plate inserted in his jaw and a wisdom tooth removed.

Investigating officer Pc James Smith said: "This blow caused some very severe injuries. I need to speak to any witnesses or anyone with information about who is responsible."

Police said the assault happened at about 5.30pm on December 21 and that the attacker was a man of mixed heritage, about 5ft 8ins tall and wearing sports clothing.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Pc James Smith or his colleagues at Loughton CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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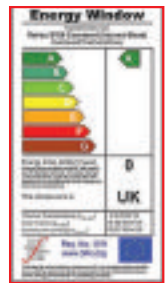
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**BEFORE**



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**SHOCK:** Bolt embedded in the crust of a pizza

# Bolt from the chew

A PIZZA lover had the shock of their life as they were about to munch on their favourite food.

A member of the public had ordered a pizza from Flames Kebab in North Street and when he opened the pizza box, he found a bolt embedded in the crust of the pizza.

The hungry customer, who wished to remain anonymous, kept the evidence and alerted Havering's trading standards officers.

The then owner of Flames Kebab, Mehmet Gilgil, was

then taken to court.

The former owner was fined £1,000 at Havering magistrates court after pleading guilty to selling a pizza with a metal bolt embedded in the crust.

The court heard the bolt came from one of the ovens used to cook the pizza.

Mehmet Gilgil, who at the time of the offence in December 2012 was the registered food business operator, pleaded guilty to selling food not of the 'substance or quality' required.

He was also ordered to pay £750 in costs.

Cabinet member for public protection, Councillor Lesley Kelly said: "Selling shoddy products of any kind is not acceptable and is particularly important when preparing food. We will always prosecute and seek the highest possible fine to make sure that everyone maintains standards in their kitchens."

"This was a cheap bolt that got someone an expensive fine and that should be a lesson to others."

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# Why did he have to die?

By Matthew Stanton

brentwood@yellowad.co.uk

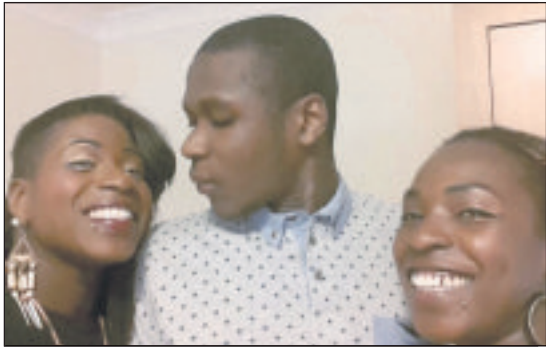
THE DEATH of an autistic man remains unexplained after police discovered his body.

Rodney Larsh, 20, was found at Shenfield train station on Christmas Eve, after going missing from an address in east London. Mr Larsh was hit by a train and the case has been referred to a coroner.

His sisters, who cared for him following the death of their mother in 2004, have many unanswered questions – especially over how he managed to get to Shenfield without any money.

Their brother was a vulnerable adult and was supervised at his home in Forest Haven, Chingford. He left the house empty-handed, but still managed to travel 20 miles in around eight hours.

Rosemary, 31, and Jessica, 25, said: "There are many questions that remain unanswered and we hope in time we will be given more clarity on the circumstances leading up to our brother's death. We are missing him



**WHAT HAPPENED?** Rodney Larsh with his sisters, Rosemary and Jessica. The body of vulnerable adult Rodney, 20, was found at Shenfield train station. His sisters, who cared for him, want to know how he got there

very much. Our brother's autism did not define him, he was truly special and blessed. He was a happy, smart and amazing young man who brought smiles to all that he encountered.

The former Whitefield School pupil's sisters have said that they have been inundated with cards and messages of support.

"We appreciate the thoughts, prayers and love that have been given," they said.

A British Transport Police (BTP) spokesman said: "Officers were called to the station following a report that a man had been struck and killed by a train. BTP and Essex Police attended the incident.

"Medics attended but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. There do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances and a file will be prepared for the coroner."

## Smart move for libraries

LIBRARY users in Havering are the first in the UK to get access to the latest interactive learning-technology.

SMART tables are 24inch multi-touch screens that enable children and adults to learn by performing group activities and games. Up to eight people can use the system at once.

A table has been installed at Central library in Main Road, Romford, with other Havering libraries fitted out later this year.

Councillor Andrew Curtin, cabinet member for culture, towns and communities, said: "Using the visual shapes and patterns that children love best, it is a computer environment for spontaneous imaginative play and education.

"It's a great addition to our library service and I'm sure it will be used by many people of all ages."

The unique learning system aims to get people of all abilities and skills excited about



**FUN:** Council leader Michael White checks out the SMART table with youngsters

learning.

SMART tables, which cost a minimum of £5,000 each, come with 1,500 ready-made activity packs that encourage shared learning.

The technology is compatible with 3D multi-media content and has applications designed to support children with autism.

Programmes help autistic children to predict and control their environment with games

that include repetition, pattern and similarity.

There are plans to instal the tables into Rainham library once it building work has finished in spring this year. Harold Hill library will also get a SMART table once it has been built.

Building work is scheduled to start in two months time.

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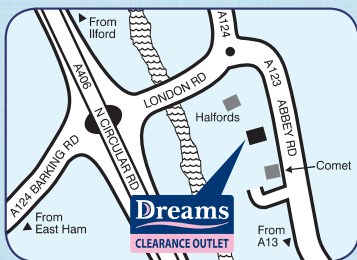


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# He said he'd be back!

A GROUP set up to help people with a life-limiting illness and those who care for them welcomed a West Ham football legend.

The Memories and Moments group was paid a visit by the Hammers' very own 'Terminator' Julian Dicks last Friday for their meeting at Saint Francis Hospice in Havering-atte-Bower.

The former West Ham United and Liverpool

defender, who got the nickname for his 'nonsense' play, shared memories of his more than 300 competitive appearances for the Hammers with some ardent fans in the group.

Julian said: "I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the hospice to meet the patients and their carers. The hospice does an amazing job for the local community, and it's a pleasure for

me to be able to support them."

He was four times voted West Ham's Player of the Year between 1990 and 1997.

Memories and Moments was set up after Briony Townshend and Sandy Lawless, two social workers in the family support team at the hospice, became aware that sharing memories in a group could benefit both patient and carers.

Group members said it allowed them to escape their present stressful situation for a short while and enjoy reminiscing together.

Sandy said: "We have run five of these meetings as a pilot and we hope to repeat it in the new year. They are an opportunity to help patients with a life-limiting illness celebrate their achievements, reinforce their self-worth and help them attain the sense of peace."



**TERMINATOR TOO:** From left, Shirley Fallon, Ian Fallon, Sandy Lawless, Sue Pelling, Alan Clarke, Bobby Jones, Julian 'The Terminator' Dicks, Jean Clarke, Robert Pelling, Briony Townshend, Bob Jones, Beverly Simmonds and Michael Simmonds at St Francis Hospice

## Win tickets to see MAMMA MIA! and a meal for two at Kettner's with Get Into London Theatre

The fabulous winter promotion Get Into London Theatre is back for 2014, offering tickets for over 45 top London shows for performances until 13 February.

With prices ranging from £10-£40 there's something to suit every budget, plus there are no booking or postage fees to pay!

You can book tickets online at [www.getintolondontheatre.co.uk](http://www.getintolondontheatre.co.uk) or call The Ticket Factory booking line on 0844 581 5050.

To celebrate, we are giving away a pair of tickets to MAMMA MIA! with a pre-theatre meal for two at Kettner's with an arrival drink and a bottle of wine. Set on a Greek island



paradise, MAMMA MIA! is a story of love, friendship and identity, cleverly told through the timeless songs of ABBA. Kettner's, situated in the heart of theatreland, is popular with actors and theatregoers alike – dine there and you never know who you might bump into!

To enter the prize draw, email your name and contact details to [competition@soltma.co.uk](mailto:competition@soltma.co.uk) with 'Get Into London Theatre' in the subject line.



**Terms and Conditions:** Entries must be received by 23:59 on 31 January 2014. Prize tickets are valid for a Mon-Thurs performance of MAMMA MIA! until 31 March 2014, excluding 17-20 February. Full prize draw rules are available at [www.getintolondontheatre.co.uk/win/terms](http://www.getintolondontheatre.co.uk/win/terms). Promoter: Society of London Theatre.



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# An extra happy new year for Jacqueline

A GRAN had an extra reason to celebrate the new year when she won the first prize in the final Saint Francis Hospice lottery draw of 2013.

Jacqueline Norris, 79, scooped the £1,000 weekly first prize on Friday.

She said: "It's the first time I've won a lottery so I wouldn't

describe myself as a lucky person with things like this, although I'm lucky in other ways with three sons and nine grand-children.

"We used to live in Rise Park and had a friend there who worked at Saint Francis Hospice, and my husband has also lost a couple of sisters to

cancer so we thought the hospice was a worthy local cause to support."

Jacqueline lives in Havering-ate-Bower, where the hospice itself is based.

She signed up to play the £1,000 lottery by direct debit after a hospice ambassador called at her home.

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REAL IS BEST: Councillor Barry Tebbut with parents

# Don't poo-poo real nappies

PARENTS can find out about the advantages of using real nappies and see what modern washable nappies look like.

The nappy education day takes place on Thursday January 9 and on March 13.

Refreshments are available to purchase in the cafe and there is a special parent and child menu available on the day.

It takes place at Laurie Cafe, Upper Floor, Romford Shopping Hall, Market Place, Romford, RM1 3AB.

For details, call 01708 432563.

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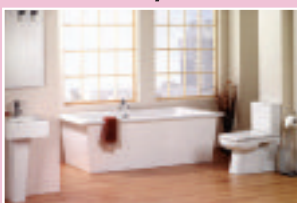


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Police hunt alleged criminals who have failed to answer bail or to appear in court

# No-shows are sought



**Illi Mulaj, 24,** is wanted after he failed to appear at Barking-side magistrates on August 14 for alleged theft. His last known address is Brentwood Road, Romford.



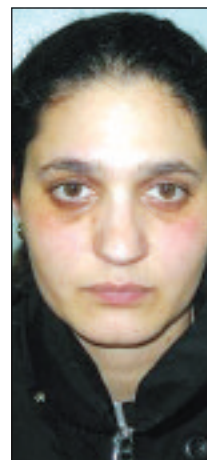
**Lucian Moras, 37,** last known at Gerald Road, Dagenham, is wanted for failing to appear at Havering magistrates on November 11 in connection with a drink driving case.



**Monica Grancea, 22,** is wanted by police for failing to appear at Havering magistrates court on September 1 in connection with an alleged theft in South Street, Romford.



**Mark Battram, 41,** believed to be in Havering, is wanted for failing to appear at Havering magistrates on November 22 for alleged possession of controlled drugs.



**Edgijus Cerniauskas, 25,** is wanted for failing to appear at Havering magistrates court on September 23 for alleged theft of motor vehicle from the Rainham area.



**Frankie Matthews, 28,** is wanted for failing to appear at Barking-side magistrates court on October 30, 2013 in relation to a case of possession of drugs with intent to supply.

POLICE have launched a major appeal for people who are wanted for failing to appear at court or on bail in connection with crimes in Havering.

Detective Chief Inspector Phil Rickells said: "The people pictured live in, or have links to the borough.

"My officers and our partner agencies use every resource available to us to remove the criminals from your community to ultimately reduce the chances of you becoming a victim of crime. "When an arrest warrant has been issued, my officers will never stop looking for the person wanted.

"I would advise anyone who knows that they are wanted by police to hand themselves in at their nearest police station and start putting this situation behind them instead of delaying the inevitable."

If you know the whereabouts of anyone pictured on this page, please contact the Havering fugitive desk on 01708 779215.

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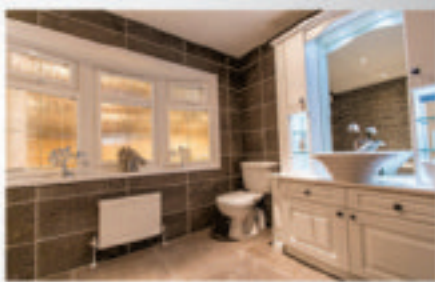
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### Price includes

- Return coach travel from the local area
- Two nights' bed and Scottish breakfast accommodation in the Tyneside area
- A seat for the Edinburgh Tattoo
- Admission to the Royal Yacht
- Visits to York and the Yorkshire Dales
- The services of a Tour Manager



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## Murder Mystery on the Severn Valley Steam Railway

Murder, Mystery and Suspense!  
Departs 16 August 2014

As darkness descends, the Severn Valley Railway's vintage steam train chugs its way through spectacular Worcestershire countryside. You're on board, enjoying a delicious three-course meal. But there's a twist to this tale – there's a murderer on the train, and it's up to you to find out 'whodunit'? A two-day break to die for!

### Price includes

- Return coach travel from the local area
- One nights' bed & English breakfast accommodation, Midlands area
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- A visit to Worcester
- The services of a Tour Manager



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Make the most of the Bank Holiday and visit the enchanting city of Paris. All the wonderful sights of the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and a host of others, together with the incomparable atmosphere of the world's favourite city will make this a Bank Holiday weekend to remember.

### Price includes

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- Return Channel crossings by ferry/Eurotunnel
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### Price includes

- Return flights and airport-to-hotel transfers
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- Visit to Santa Margherita and Portofino, including boat trip
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## Bournemouth

**A great value mid-week break!  
Departs 29 September 2014**

Head to Bournemouth for a few days by the sea and enjoy the many and varied attractions of this stylish resort! You'll stay at the 3\* Suncliff Hotel, which boasts an indoor swimming pool and is situated on the seafront on Bournemouth's prestigious East Cliff. Plus visit the scenic Isle of Purbeck.

### Price includes

- Coach travel throughout
- Four nights' dinner, bed and English breakfast accommodation in the 3\* Suncliff Hotel, Bournemouth
- Excursion to the Isle of Purbeck with visits to Wareham and Swanage
- Entertainment most evenings
- The services of a Tour Manager



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## Eastbourne

**A great value mid-week break!  
Departs 22 April 2014**

Treat yourself to a few days by the sea! Stay in the 3\* Mansion Hotel on the seafront overlooking the Grand Parade and enjoy Eastbourne's many attractions - three miles of promenades, stunning gardens, the Victorian Pier and lots more. Plus visit the picturesque towns of Battle and Hastings on an included excursion.

### Price includes

- Coach travel throughout
- Four nights' dinner, bed and English breakfast accommodation in the 3\* Mansion Hotel, Eastbourne
- Entertainment on at least two evenings
- Visits to Battle and Hastings
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## Bletchley Park - the Secrets of War

Clandestine operations and tales of spies and deception are brought to life on this fascinating visit to Bletchley Park.

**Departs 24 May & 20 September 2014 2 days from £109.00**

## Chester and the Tatton Park Flower Show

Bursting with summer colour, the Tatton Park Flower Show is one of the highlights of the gardening year.

**Departs 26 July 2014 2 days from £119.00**

## Cream of the Cotswolds

Stunning scenery, quaint honey coloured villages .... a holiday to the Cotswolds is always remembered.

**Departs 12 May & 15 September 2014 5 days from £219.00**

## Emmerdale & the Best of Yorkshire

Enjoy tours of "Last of the Summer Wine Country" and the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, plus a drive through Esholt the original home of Emmerdale on this wonderful break.

**Departs 2 May, 20 Jun & 12 Sep 2014 3 days from £139.00**

## Monet's Garden and Paris

Visits to Claude Monet's beautiful house and gardens and to incomparable Paris, are amongst the wonderful highlights.

**Departs May - September 2014 4 days from £179.50**

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## Bournemouth

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**Departs 29 September 2014****5 days from £299.00**

## Easter in the German Valleys

A perfect springtime getaway to the glorious German Valleys! Breathtakingly beautiful, just crying out to be explored.

**Departs 18 April 2014****4 days from £179.00***"I thoroughly enjoyed the Easter in the German Valleys holiday. Everything went well..."*

Mrs B, Berkshire

## Harrogate Spring Flower Show

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**Departs 26 April 2014****2 days from £105.00**

## Murder Mystery on the Severn Valley Steam Railway

Enjoy a journey on the Severn Valley Steam Railway, Murder Mystery evening and a visit to Worcester.

**Departs 16 August 2015****2 days from £159.00**

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# Holland in the Summertime

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This excellent value break will introduce the many delights of this famously colourful country, bathed in the warmth of summer, and includes a full day fascinating capital Amsterdam, with its canals, cobblestones and café-bars, and visits to elegant Den Haag - The Hague - and fun-loving, sea-side-postcard-perfect resort Scheveningen.

### Price includes

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Scottish Islands & Faroes	7	9 Jun 2014	£739	<b>£599</b>
Majestic Fjordland	8	27 Jun 2014	£839	<b>£629</b>
Baltic Cities & St Petersburg	13	15 Jun 2014	£1,469	<b>£1,179</b>
North Cape & Midnight Sun	15	4 Jul 2014	£1,699	<b>£1,189</b>
Treasures of the British Isles	12	18 Jul 2014	£1,259	<b>£999</b>

Overnight Taster Cruises on board <i>Marco Polo</i>	Days	Departure Dates	Brochure Price	Saver Fare
Depart Tilbury return Newcastle	2	8 Jun 2014	£99	<b>£69</b>

Cruise on board <i>Marco Polo</i> Sailing from Tilbury	Days	Departure Dates	Brochure Price	Saver Fare
Baltic Cities & St Petersburg	13	6 May,	£1,419	<b>£1079</b>
	13	21 Sep 2014	£1,409	<b>£1059</b>
	13	21 Aug 2014	£1,449	<b>£1,089</b>
	13	15 Oct 2014	£1,369	<b>£959</b>
Bank Holiday Treat	5	2 May 2014	£459	<b>£319</b>
British Isles	10	4 Apr 2014	£1,069	<b>£809</b>
	10	2 Sep 2014	£1,079	<b>£799</b>
Fjordland Splendour	9	29 Jul 2014	£959	<b>£669</b>
Iceland & the Northern Isles	13	9 Aug 2014	£1,449	<b>£1,159</b>
Majestic Fjordland	8	25 Apr, 11 Sep 2014	£809	<b>£559</b>
Scandinavian Cities	9	7 Oct 2014	£909	<b>£639</b>
Scottish Isles & Faroes	8	8 Jun 2014	£819	<b>£659</b>
Springtime Gardens	6	30 Mar 2014	£579	<b>£399</b>
Springtime Fjordland	7	13, Apr	£699	<b>£519</b>
	7	18 May 2014	£719	<b>£579</b>
The Northern Lights	15	16 Feb, 2, 16 Mar 2014	£1,639	<b>£969</b>
Treasures of the British Isles	11	19 Jul 2014	£1,209	<b>£959</b>
Christmas & New Year Canaries	15	22 Dec 2014	£1,639	<b>£1,219</b>
D-Day Anniversary Cruise	7	2 Jun 2014	£749	<b>£639</b>



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# My tyr-ing test-drive

by Stewart Smith

SO far we have had very little snow or ice this winter but if some weather experts are to be believed we are in for a severe spell of chilly blasts in the not too distant future.

And after some pretty horrendous driving conditions last winter an increasing number of drivers have opted to fit winter tyres.

All major tyre companies offer them and one of the biggest in Europe, Continental, has released its latest design, the WinterContact TS 850P.

The new tyre takes over from the popular ContiWinterContact TS 830P, which will continue to be on sale for a few months.

The TS 850P outperforms its predecessor both in its handling on snow and dry roads and in its braking performance.

I tested the new winter rubber in Arvidsjaur, Lapland, a remote area which is used as a winter testing centre by major car manufacturers and tyre companies.

The temperature a couple of days before I arrived fell to -20C, but on the day we took to the frozen lake for some treacherous test-driving, the mercury had risen to +7C so we were on solid ice with a film of water on top.

But I was impressed by the new TS 850P,

which coped well on a demanding test route with a slalom stage, emergency braking and a twisty hill route through the pine forests.

I also experienced the difference of driving with the new Continental winter tyres and some cheaper import tyres. Stopping distances and handling on the inferior brands were surprisingly inferior to the new German product and, although more expensive, it makes sense to me to go for a premium product. Your life could depend on it.

Continental designers have completely redesigned the tread pattern on the new tyre to include more blocks on the surface and closer sipes (grooves in tyres) in the centre making greater grip giving five per cent improvement in handling on snow and ice.

Braking distances have also been uprated by five per cent over the outgoing TS 830P plus a two per cent improvement in handling on dry roads, says Continental.

There's also a version of the new tyre which has been designed specifically for SUVs that has bigger tread blocks to help prevent stones being picked up when driving on gravel tracks.

More drivers are opting for winter tyres and, depending on where you live in the UK, they must make winter motoring safer.

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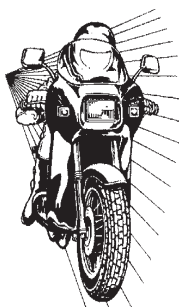
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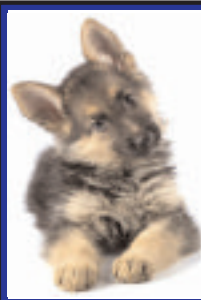
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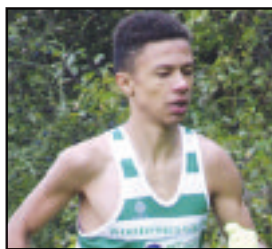
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### Woodford miss out

#### Cross Country



Cnaan Solomon

Photo by Ken Bray

ON Saturday it was time for the Essex Champs at Hilly Fields in Colchester. The weather had been severe so it was with some surprise that the runners found that the course seemed fairly firm.

Chelmsford had got two very good U20's promoted to the senior race, and with two of Woodford athletes having to pull out, regaining the title was going to be an extremely tough ask.

First man in was Kevin Murphy in 14th. Kevin was coming off a Christmas illness but ran a well judged race, leaving it until lap three to surge through the field and display the quality that shows why he is a past winner of this event.

Woodford's second man in was Gareth Cavell. Gareth did everything he could, running a well judged race and coming in as the club's second man in 29th.

Chelmsford closed 6 in 11 which to win the title.

Woodford's top six missed out on the medals. There was a fine result from U20 James Stockings who got silver.

■ Ed Shepherd was second in a good-quality Hertfordshire Champs. In the Merseyside Championships, Jordan Donnelly and Hywel Care were fifth and eighth respectively while Bertie Powell was 13th in the Middlesex Champs. The best team result came in the race for girls under 15 where the Woodford girls finished in second place. Jodie Ratcliffe led the team home in a fine fourth place closely followed by Rosie Poole in seventh.

Not to be outdone the team of boys under 15 ran well for third place team with Cnaan Solomon having a great run taking the individual gold medal. Cnaan was supported by James Wakefield in 16th., Owen Armstrong in 17th and Harry Cavell in 21st.

#### Orient

##### Yeovil Town 4 Leyton Orient 0 FA Cup Third Round

By Rowland Lyons at Huish Park  
LEYTON ORIENT crashed out of the FA Cup in a rain-soaked Somerset last Saturday.

The O's – obviously with one eye on automatic promotion following closest rivals Wolves' Friday night reverse – had no answer to a James Hayter double, with Joel Grant and Kieffer Moore adding insult to injury.

Despite a bright start, with the O's taking the game to their struggling Championship hosts, the east Londoners fell behind on 12 minutes when a Jake Larkins' goalkeeping gaffe from Luke Ayling's lofted free-kick presented Hayter with the easiest of close range headers.

With caution always the watch word, Orient stuck rigidly to a 4-5-1 formation and – consequently – were restricted to long range efforts with only Moses Odubajo's undoubted pace causing the Glovers problems – the most notable effort coming on 27 minutes from a great Dean Cox pass that saw the wideman's angled drive blocked.

But – in truth – the O's were always second best and Larkins at least redeemed himself with a smart 27th minute block from the lively ex-Wycombe man, Grant.

The tie should have been settled on 34 minutes when Hayter found himself in acres of space following another defensive slip, but curled wide of a diving Larkins far post.

Another bright start to a half – with Lasimant literally a cigarette paper's width from levelling – saw the Glovers almost immediately double their lead when Grant's fine 8-yard volley gave Larkins no chance.

If 2-0 down wasn't bad enough, the scoreline turned into a rout on the hour when an unmarked Hayter stooped to home head his second and put the game beyond the O's reach.

Persisting with the lone striker, Orient's opportunities were still extremely limited with only new loan signing, Jamie Ness, curling wide when well placed and Baudry blasting over from the edge of the box.

Damage limitation was obviously key as both sides ran the clock down and one-time Glovers' boss, Russell Slade – barracked throughout the game by the home supporters – gave much-needed game time to Tottenham loan man Shaquille Coulthirst – who managed the east Londoners' only on-target effort which Marek Stech saved with his feet – with fellow sub, Harry Lee, spurning a couple of late half chances.

But, Glovers had other ideas when sub, Moore, completed a bad day at the office for the O's by beating the

offside trap and easily slotting past a stranded Larkins in the 90th minute.

Slade admitted: "We started brightly and I thought we knocked the ball around quite well, but their goal came against the run of play. We then rallied around, but the second goal was a bit of a 'killer', and the last goal you can ignore as it was several yards offside. But, 2-0 or 4-0, it's the FA Cup and they deserved to go through on the day.

"We've got injuries, and it was 'needs must' really. We have two new faces in and we had to give them pitch time. It's a difficult time for us and we are trying to bring in one or two players and still get results. As I said to the lads, we just have to put this [result] in a box, we can now concentrate on the league".

■ Orient were due to travel to Shrewsbury on Tuesday and entertain mid-table Carlisle United this Saturday (kick-off 3pm).

**YEovil TOWN:** Marek Stech – Luke Ayling, Byron Webster (Edward Upson 50), Shane Duffy, Liam Davis – Kevin Dawson, Jon Lundstram, Joseph Edwards, Samuel Foley (Adam Morgan 72) – Joel Grant, James Hayter (Kieffer Moore 82), Subs (not used): Christopher Dunn, Jamie McAllister, Joey Jones, Seth Nana Tsumasi.

**LEYTON ORIENT:** Jake Larkins – Elliot Omozusi, Scott Cuthbert, Nathan Clarke (captain), Gary Sawyer – Moses Odubajo, Jamie Ness, Mathieu Baudry (Harry Lee 80), Lloyd James (Johnny Gorman 70), Dean Cox (Shaquille Coulthirst 62) – Yohann Lasimant, Subs (not used): Kevin Lisbie, Alex Finney, Sam Ling, Charlie Grainger.

#### Tuesday January 7

##### Shrewsbury Town 0 Orient 2

##### Sky Bet League One

##### By Rowland Lyons at the Greenhouse Meadow

LEYTON ORIENT reclaimed an automatic promotion spot after a battling victory against the struggling Shrews on Tuesday night.

Goals in both halves from Moses Odubajo and own goal, in which Scott Cuthbert claimed an 'assist', saw the O's home to an impressive ninth victory on their travels – and to currently the best away record in the country.

With the transfer window open since New Year's Day, boss, Russell Slade, has been busy and has added the temporary signings of Eldin Jakupovic – a goalkeeper and Norwich striker, Jamal Loza, to Shaquille Coulthirst and Jamie Ness – who starred at Yeovil last Saturday, but started on the bench.

A scrappy start to this clash saw Shrews' Chris Wildig waste a couple of half chances, before Kevin Lisbie had penalty appeals turned down.

Orient took the lead on 27 minutes with a goal out of nothing. Dean Cox won possession on the left and fed Lisbie, who in turn played in Loza, whose clever ball fell to Odubajo. Having seemingly taken the ball too far away from goal, the wideman netted from the acutest of angles to send the small band of travelling supporters wild.

With the upper hand, Orient nearly doubled their lead, but former Hammers keeper, Chris Weale, made an important save from Mathieu Baudry's powerful header from a Lloyd James corner.

Orient went for broke straight after the break and Cox tested Weale with a powerful effort before the Shrews hit back and Tom Eaves should have levelled and with only Jakupovic to beat, shot wide of a gaping goal.

Sub Yohann Lasimant and Odubajo were then both unlucky not to increase the O's lead after Cox – again – had found space down the left flank and the Shrews replied when, but the wasteful Wildig again failed to hit the target with only Jakupovic to beat.

With O's looking a little 'leggy' after their weekend FA Cup exploits, the home side continued to limit the east Londoners to sporadic break-aways, but Odiubajo – finding space down the right – cut in and saw his 73rd minute goalbound drive blocked by Tamika Mkandawire.

But, the O's finally made the points safe four minutes from time when Cuthbert nodded on Cox's inswinging flag-kick and the ball was helped in by a hapless Shrewsbury defender.

A delighted Slade said: "It was a big win – but our away form has been good recently with two wins and a draw coming out of Christmas – I can't ask for any more.

"I was delighted with Moses' goal – I don't think there is anyone in the team with his pace. We always looked such a threat going forward. Lisbie was commanding upfront and allowing us to get up the pitch – with Cox and Moses out wide causing problems.

"It was important we stuck together and we dug in and managed to get that result – because it's now we need those results. It's no good coming in during March or April and performing when it doesn't matter".

Slade concluded: "We have just played two games on very difficult surfaces. I couldn't believe the football we had played this evening. It's credit to the players and it's now all about recovery and winning the next game".

Odubajo added: "There is plenty of belief in the squad – we just take each game as it comes".

■ Orient entertain Carlisle United this Saturday (kick-off 3pm).

**SHREWSBURY TOWN:** Chris Weale – Ryan Woods (Jermaine Grandison 73), Dave Winfield, Tamika Mkandawire (captain), Joe Jacobson – Jon Taylor, Dave McAllister, Aaron Wildig, Nicky Wroe (Tom Bradshaw 46) – Tom Eaves, Paul Parry (Asa Hall 84), Subs (not used): Joe Anyon, Darren Jones, Alex McQuade, John Marsden.

**LEYTON ORIENT:** Eldin Jakupovic – Scott Cuthbert, Nathan Clarke (captain), Mathieu Baudry, Elliot Omozusi – Moses Odubajo (Robbie Simpson 84), Lloyd James, Marvin Bartley (Jamie Ness 89), Dean Cox – Jamal Loza (Yohann Lasimant 57), Kevin Lisbie. Subs (not used): Gary Sawyer, Jake Larkins (gk), Shaquille Coulthirst.

#### Football

## Billericay fightback dominates fixtures

### Non-League round up by Brian Jeeves

THE local football spotlight was on battling Billericay Town who produced an astonishing comeback in their Ryman Premier Division game at Thamesmead Town.

The home side took just thirty-one minutes to build up what appeared to be an unassailable 3-0 lead thanks to goals from Shamir Mullings, Rashid Kamara and Baff Aday. However, former Canvey Island man Richard Halle reduced the arrears just before the break.

In the second period, Ricky Sappleton grabbed a brace to level the score at 3-3 and secure an unlikely point.

In the Ryman North, two late goals from Anthony Martin earned Brentwood Town a 2-2 draw at Dereham Town while Redbridge went down 4-1 at Soham Town Rangers.

Nevertheless, these games aside it was another weather affected weekend for the regions clubs. The washout put pay to the Skill South games involving Chelmsford City (at home to Ebbsfleet United) and Concord Rangers (at Bromley), while all nine Essex Senior League matches were called off due to waterlogged pitches.

Ryman Premier Leaguers Canvey Island were one of the club's affected by the postponements. The club would have expected a crowd somewhere in the region of 300 at the Prospects Stadium for the visit of Lewes.

Club spokesperson Glen Eckett told *Yellow Sport*: "Bills still have to be paid, such as players' wages and rent, we have to use the grounds other facilities to generate revenue".

Eckett added: "Thankfully we have some very good sponsorship deals in place, this helps the club when we have no match day takings".

Football on the local parks was also hard hit. April Smith fills a number of roles for Southend Sunday League Elmsleigh Rangers, including manager, treasurer and secretary.

She said: "These games getting called off has a knock on effect financially as double header matches have to be played so we can catch up. If these are away that means we are paying a higher fee per game for our facilities which makes it less worthwhile.

April also stressed that some park footballers lose interest in playing due to inactivity. "It affects their fitness and it's harder to keep them interested," she added.

Perhaps the answer to these issues lie across the Estuary in Kent, where Maidstone United's Gallagher Stadium has an artificial 3G playing surface.

The Stones Ryman Premier Division fixture with Hendon beat the inclement conditions, with an impressive crowd of 1,583 witnessing a 1-1 draw. With the durable pitch in place, a number of schools and community groups also use the ground, earning the club a health stream of revenue.



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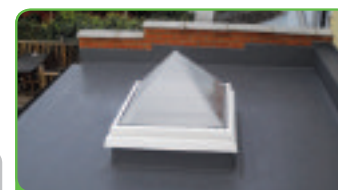
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